

THE AMENDMENT

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A golf tee (10), characterized by a shaft (12) adapted for insertion into a surface of ground, and a pivotable support portion (16) mounted atop an upper end (18) of the shaft (12), the pivotable support portion (16) having a plurality of rigid upright prong members (40) of equal length mounted thereupon, the prong members (40) being arranged to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members (40) such that the golf ball is positioned substantially above the upright prong members (40) and the pivotable support portion (16) is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft (12) so as to assist in balancing the golf ball atop the prong members (40);

wherein for relatively long prong members (40), the prong members (40) have an interconnected portion (41) at ends proximal to the pivotal portion (36) of the support portion (16), in which lower ends of the prong member (40) are longitudinally connected; whereas the relatively long prong members (40) are desired to play a golf shot in which a greater distance is to be achieved;

wherein for relatively short prong members (40), the prong members (40) do not have an interconnected portion (41) at ends proximal to the pivotal portion (36) of the support portion (16), in which lower ends of the prong member (40) are longitudinally connected; whereas the relatively short prong members (40) are desired to play a golf shot in which a lesser distance is to be achieved.

2. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the pivotable support portion (16) has an upper portion (14) and a lower portion (26), wherein the upper portion (14) includes a pivotable portion (36).

3. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that the pivotable portion (36) is pivotably mounted adjacent the upper end (18) of the shaft (12) by a pivotable connection means (32).

4. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the pivotable connection means (32) is ball and socket assembly.
5. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that the lower portion (26) of the pivotable support portion (16) is provided with a socket (34), wherein the pivotable portion (36) is complementary in configuration to the socket (34), the pivotable portion (36) of the upper portion (14) being adapted to be engagingly received by the socket (34).
6. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the pivotable support portion (16) is threadingly engaged with the upper end (18) of the shaft (12).
7. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the shaft (12) is provided with a stopper portion (24) disposed adjacent to the upper end (18) of the shaft (12).
8. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 7, characterized in that the stopper portion (24) comprises a substantially annular flange (29) that is truncated at one side to form a C-shaped portion (48) and a segment portion (50); wherein the C-shaped portion (48) has a upper surface (52) that is substantially horizontal when the golf tee is inserted into the ground, wherein the segmented portion (50) has a sloping surface (30) that slopes downward relative to the upper surface (52) of the C-shaped portion (48); whereas the sloping surface (30) of the segmented portion (50) ensures that the stopper portion (24) is not displaced when the golf ball is struck by the golf club.
has a substantially horizontal upper surface (52) that is provided with a downwardly sloping surface (30), the downwardly sloping surface (30) being arranged, in use, to face towards a striking surface of a golf club.

9. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 8, characterized in that the slope of the sloping surface (30) of the segmented portion (50) relative to the upper surface (52) of the C-shaped portion (48) the downwardly sloping surface (30) has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.

10. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 8, characterized in that the stopper portion (24) is provided with a guidance marker (28), wherein the guidance marker (28) is disposed diametrically opposite the downwardly sloping surface (30); wherein the guidance marker is located on the upper surface (52).

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (110) (10) in accordance with claim [[12]] 1, characterized in that each pivotal support portion (16) has three prong members (40) mounted thereupon.

14. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (110) (10) in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that each prong member (40) has a pointed portion (42) at an upper end thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (110) (10) in accordance with claim 14, characterized in that each pointed portion (42) is substantially conical.

16. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the prong members (40) are equidistantly and equiangularly arranged upon the pivotal support portion (16), the prong members (40) forming a support surface to support a golf ball

placed atop the prong members (40), whilst maintaining minimal contact between a surface of the golf ball and prong members (40).

17. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a longitudinal length of the plurality of prong members (40) on a single pivotable support portion (16) is substantially the same.

18. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the longitudinal length of the prong members (40) is variable and selected to suit a particular intended golf stroke.

19. (Cancelled) .

20. (Cancelled) .

21. (Cancelled)

22 (New) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 7 wherein the stopper portion (24) is provided with a plurality of leg portions extending downwardly from a lower surface of the stopper portion (24); whereas the provision of leg portions enables the golf tee to be more readily removed from the ground by pulling the stopper portion (24) upwardly.